

CLAIMS:

1. A jammer (20) for jamming the readout of contactless data carriers (2, 2') by a reader (1) emitting electromagnetic scanning signals (SS), having an air interface (11) for receiving electromagnetic signals, having analyzing means (15) for analyzing the electromagnetic signals received by the air interface, and having jamming-signal generating means (18) for generating a jamming signal (DS), the analyzing means (15) for analyzing the electromagnetic signals received being arranged to identify scanning signals (SS) from the reader (1) among the electromagnetic signals received and, when scanning signals (SS) are detected, to transmit a control signal (CS) to the jamming-signal generating means (18), the jamming-signal generating means (18) being arranged to generate the jamming signal (DS) and transmit it via the air interface (11) on receipt of the control signal (CS).
2. A jammer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the air interface (11) is arranged to extract electrical energy to supply the jammer from the signals received.
3. A jammer as claimed in claim 1, wherein a battery (17) is provided to supply the jammer or individual ones of its sub-assemblies with electrical energy, and wherein the battery is preferably able to be switched on as soon as the jammer moves into the zone of action of a reader, and is preferably able to be switched off as soon as the jammer moves out of the zone of action of a reader.
4. A jammer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the analyzing means (15) for analyzing the electromagnetic signals received are arranged to detect the type of the reader (1) emitting the scanning signals (SS) from the scanning signals and to emit the control signal (CS) only when the type of reader detected is a preset type, or is not an authorized type.
5. A jammer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the analyzing means (15) for analyzing the electromagnetic signals received are arranged to extract from the scanning signals (SS) commands to contactless data carriers (2, 2') emitted by the reader (1), and to

emit the control signal (CS) if commands to data carriers to request them to read out their data are detected.

6. A jammer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the jamming-signal generating means (18) are arranged to generate a highly modulated signal as a jamming signal (DS).

7. A jammer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the jamming-signal generating means (18) are arranged to generate an electromagnetic pulse as a jamming signal (DS).

8. A jammer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the jamming-signal generating means (18) are arranged to emit a user warning signal (ES), such as an acoustic or optical signal.

9. A container for holding articles that are provided with data carriers able to be read without physical contact, wherein the container has a jammer (20) as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8.

10. A container as claimed in claim 9 that is in the form of a wallet or billfold (21), a document case or a briefcase.

11. A data carrier (2') able to be read without physical contact by a reader (1) emitting electromagnetic scanning signals (SS), having an air interface (11) for receiving electromagnetic signals, having a logic circuit (12') for analyzing the electromagnetic signals received by the air interface and for transmitting items of information, such as an identity number (ID), to the air interface (11), the air interface being arranged to transmit the items of information received from the logic circuit (12') as electromagnetic identity signals (IS), and having jamming-signal generating means (18) for generating a jamming signal (DS), the logic circuit (12') having a jamming mode of operation in which it identifies scanning signals (SS) from the reader (1) among the electromagnetic signals received and, if scanning signals (SS) are detected, transmits an activating signal (AS) to the jamming-signal generating means (18), the jamming-signal generating means (18) being arranged to generate the jamming signal (DS) and transmit it via the air interface (11) on receipt of the activating signal (AS).

12. A data carrier as claimed in claim 11, wherein the logic circuit (12') is arranged to detect the type of the reader (1) emitting the scanning signals (SS) from the scanning signals and to emit the activating signal (AS) only when the type of reader detected is a preset type, or is not an authorized type.

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13. A data carrier as claimed in claim 11, wherein the logic circuit (12') is arranged to extract from the scanning signals (SS) commands to contactless data carriers (2, 2') emitted by the reader (1), and to go to the jamming mode of operation if commands to activate the jamming mode of operation are detected and to exit the jamming mode of operation if commands to de-activate the jamming mode of operation are detected.

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14. A data carrier as claimed in claim 11, wherein the jamming-signal generating means (18) are arranged to generate a highly modulated signal as a jamming signal (DS).

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15. A data carrier as claimed in claim 11, wherein the jamming-signal generating means (18) are arranged to generate an electromagnetic pulse as a jamming signal (DS).